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ABSTRACT

Each year, more than 514,000 international students enroll in United States colleges and universities. This publication is intended to assist these students in the selection of a U.S. two- or four-year educational institution. It gives a breakdown of the different types of institutions and degrees offered, and presents a case for beginning studies at a U.S. community college, including the tuition savings, small class sizes, and the wide variety of programs offered. The guide offers details regarding special requirements for international applicants, including tests, transcripts, essays, and proof of financial support. Required tests can include the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) and/or the SAT (Scholastic Assessment Test). The guide also provides a brief breakdown of financial considerations. Once a foreign student has been accepted into an academic program, the school will issue a Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Status, so that the student may apply for a visa. There are three types of student visas: F-1 (Student Visa); J-1 (Exchange Visitor Visa); and M-1 (Vocational Student Visa). A checklist for items that must be included in visa applications is included. The guide also offers practical advice for traveling to the United States, and discusses housing, banking, driving, and working in the United States. (NB)

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American Community Colleges

International Students

ED 473 190

A Guide to Studying in the USA

Vol. I/2002

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Official Guide of the American Association of Community Colleges

AACC
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION of COMMUNITY COLLEGES

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8 Reasons Why Community Colleges are the Gateway to Higher Education in the *USA*.

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2. Accredited colleges with quality programs
3. Low tuition fees (save $1000s of dollars)
4. Lower TOEFL requirements
5. Special international students support offices
6. Small class size
7. State-of-the-art technology
8. Wide variety of courses

2 years at a Community College
+ 2 years at a University
= Bachelor's Degree

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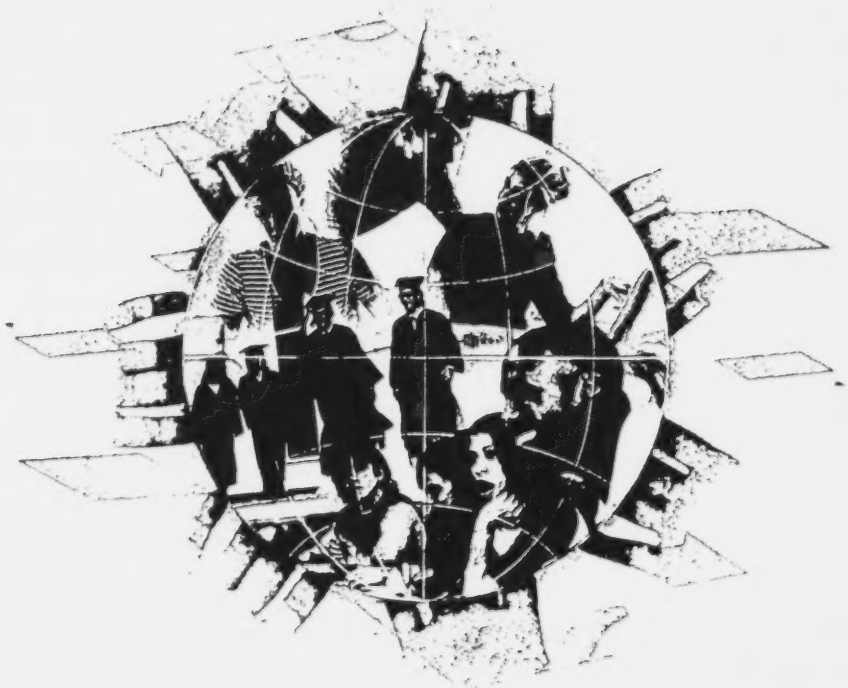
American Community Colleges and International Students

A Guide to Studying in the USA



A publication of the
American Association
of Community Colleges
in conjunction with Edmission

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Dear Prospective Student:

Please accept this first edition of *American Community Colleges and International Students: A Guide to Studying in the USA.* The guide provides information on two-year institutions, usually known as "community colleges." Community colleges are a gateway to higher education in the United States.

The American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) has partnered with Edmission to provide international recruitment services which include traditional and online fairs, a forum to disseminate facts and news about community colleges, and of course, this guide.

We hope that you find the enclosed information helpful while planning your academic life in the United States. We have provided you ample space to write down your thoughts and comments as you search for the community college best suited to your goals and needs.

Our best wishes for success in your academic pursuits.

For more information see our new Web site: www.cc-usa.org

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Coming Soon

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You and your parents can participate in online/virtual college fairs. These events will be hosted at computer centers around the world with Internet access. You can chat live with college representatives such as admissions officers, current students, and faculty. Over 35 colleges are participating in these events. Check locations of the next online fairs at www.cc-usa.org.

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Why Study in the United States?

Studying in the United States is no longer just a trend. Each year more than 514,000 students seeking an invaluable educational experience from around the world enroll in United States colleges and universities. A degree from the United States is recognized throughout the world as a significant accomplishment.

Students pursuing degrees in the U.S. make themselves highly marketable within our shared "global village." Now, virtually every career field needs people who understand global issues, appreciate the cultures of other countries, and have the skills to work successfully in an international context. International education provides the opportunity for students—U.S. and from other nations—to interact in an educational setting and become more globally competent citizens.

International students are highly valued on U.S. campuses. Classmates and professors often want to learn more about the visitor's country, its culture, language, economy, and educational programs. International students are sometimes requested as speakers for campus and community clubs. In some classes, teams of students are formed to carry out projects, and international students work in small groups with U.S. citizens and people from other nations. Some campuses have multi-cultural and multi-national student organizations which also provide the opportunity to know faculty and students from many countries.

Getting Started

Before you begin to select a college or university, think about your goals in planning to study in the United States. What do you want to study? Do you have a particular field in mind for your career and are you looking for a college or university with a good reputation in that field? Are you still undecided about what area to study? Do you want a general education leading to a bachelor's degree? Do you want to improve your English and be able to work in this second language? Is your goal to gain an understanding of the American culture?

Write down a list of your goals before you begin your research on U.S. colleges and universities.

To begin, you can look at the AACC Web site (www.cc-usa.org) to locate community colleges throughout the United States. Community colleges offer the first two years of study toward a four-year bachelor's degree. These first two years can be comparable to the first two years at a four-year institution and many courses are transferable to the four-year colleges and universities.

Learn the educational terms "upper division", "lower division", "undergraduate" and "graduate." **The first two years of study are called "lower division." After completion, students may transfer to a college or university for "upper division" courses (years three and four), leading to the bachelor's degree.** Combined, years 1-2-3-4 are called "undergraduate." Years beyond the bachelor's degree are called "graduate" level.

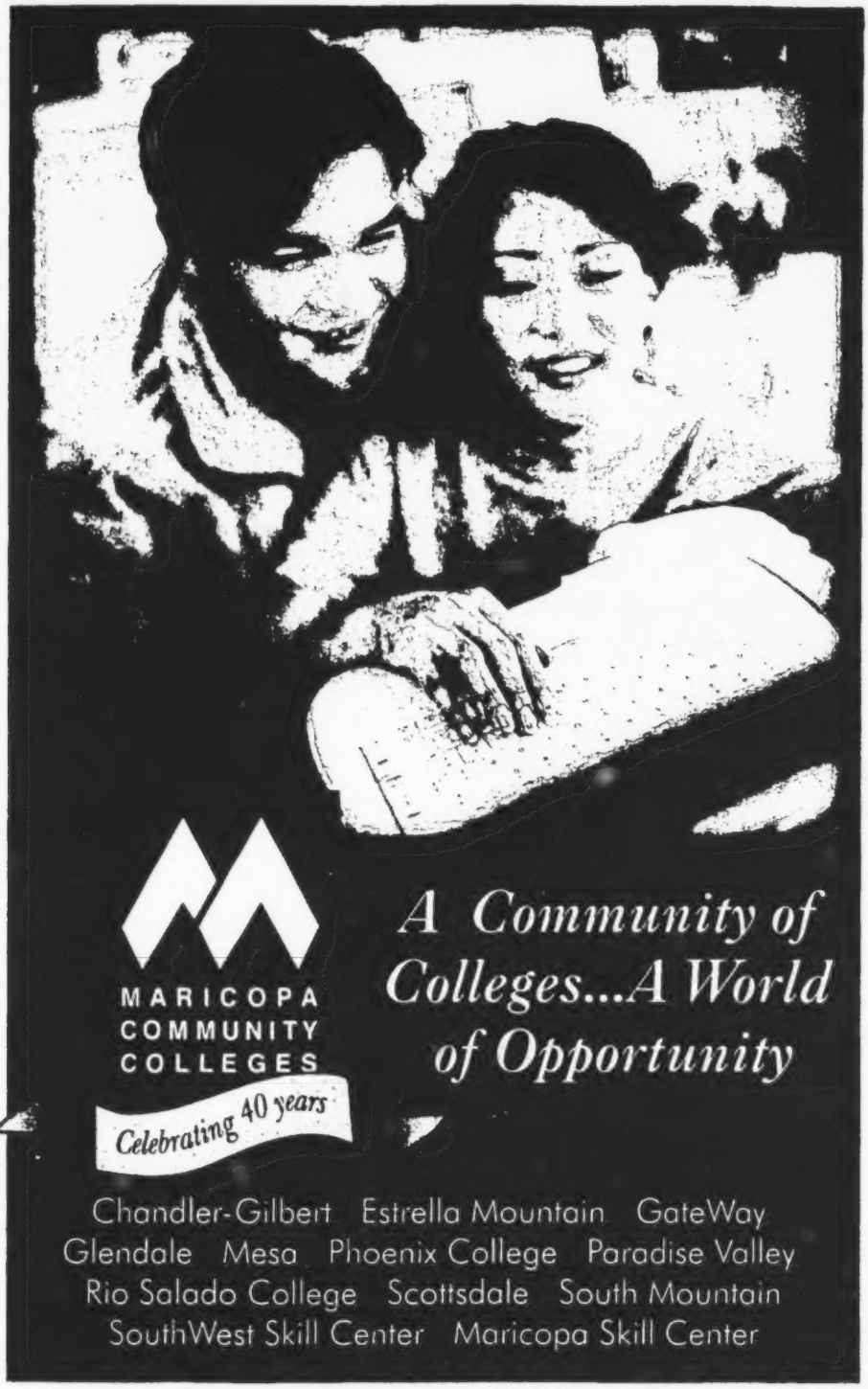
You can look up the Web site of most colleges or universities and take a "virtual tour" of the campuses. Many institutions even have their entire course catalog online.

Your high school advisor can often be of help. Or perhaps you have friends or relatives who have studied in the United States.

Also, look for personal assistance from:

- American Overseas Student Educational Advising centers affiliated with a United States Embassy or Consulate: http://exchanges.state.gov/education/educationusa/asaeacs.htm
- Fulbright advising centers, connected with the United States and your government: http://www.fulbright.org/commissions.htm
- International educational organizations such as the Institute for International Education (IIE): http://www.iie.org

Some of these centers have collections of college catalogs and videos. They will also know where and when tests will be given for TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language). The Overseas Educational Advisors can help you match your goals and academic record with an U.S. institution. Check with the American Embassy or Consulate nearest you for the telephone and address of advising centers.



www.maricopa.edu

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Mesa Community College is one of the largest community colleges in the United States and serves students from over 100 countries. Whether your interest is engineering, business, art, or computer science, MCC has a program designed for you.

Located in scenic Arizona, home of the Grand Canyon, the state boasts 321 sunny days annually and mild winters. Mesa Community College is just 20 minutes from Phoenix—6th largest US city with convenient Sky Harbor International Airport.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS COME TO MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE BECAUSE OF:

- A friendly, welcoming and safe environment
- A broad range of degree and certificate programs
- Affordable tuition and easy enrollment
- An intensive English program
- A variety of student services
- Sports and performing arts programs
- Close proximity to a major four-year university—Arizona State University
- The ease of transferring college credits to a four-year institution
- Unlimited internet access

http://www.mc.maricopa.edu

For an application, brochure or more information on MCC, contact the International Education Office by phone: 1-480-461-7758 or by mail: 1833 West Southern Avenue, Mesa, Arizona USA 85202

Universities and Colleges

The United States has more than 3,300 universities and colleges from which to choose. How do you decide which one will best meet your requirements? Selecting the right college will play an important role in reaching your future career objectives.

Types of Colleges and Universities

Community Colleges: Generally these are two-year colleges that award the associate degree. You can transfer* your credits from a community college to a four-year college or a university. Most public, state-funded colleges are regionally accredited. Accreditation may vary in private institutions.

Four-year Colleges: Generally four-year colleges award a bachelor of arts or a bachelor of science degree. Colleges can be private or public. However, accreditation may vary from college to college.

State Universities: These are state-funded institutions of higher education. They have a wide range of programs and offer degrees up to the Ph.D. level. Generally these universities are fully accredited and recognized all over the world.

Private Universities: These are privately funded institutions of higher education. They offer a range of programs. A student should verify if a college is accredited.

Degrees Offered

- AA degree (associate degree—2-year Community College)
- BA degree (bachelor of arts degree—4-year University or College)
- BS degree (bachelor of science degree—4-year University or College)
- MA degree (master's degree of arts—2 years of graduate school, post baccalaureate degree)
- MBA degree (master's of business administration—2 years of graduate school, post baccalaureate degree)

*Must follow college transfer agreement with a university

- MS degree (master's degree—2-year graduate school, post baccalaureate degree)
- Ph.D. (doctorate degree—Length of study varies, either post bachelor's or master's)
- Post Ph.D.

Location in the United States

There are 50 states in the United States and you can choose a college in any state of your preference. The costs of education and living vary from state to state.

Accreditation

Accreditation is a status granted to an educational institution that has been found to meet or exceed stated criteria of educational quality. It is very important that the school or the program you are planning to attend be accredited. Credits from a non-accredited school will not transfer to an accredited college or university if you are planning to continue your education. Most ministries of education around the world will not recognize a degree in a home country if the degree is from a non-accredited college or university.

You can find out if the college you are applying to is accredited by checking with the Council on Higher Education Accreditation at http://www.chea.org and The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges http://www.accjc.org

NOTES/COMMENTS

CYPRESS COLLEGE
Go Places

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For nearly a half-million people — including actors, athletes, auto technicians, doctors, business executives, engineers, nurses and teachers — Cypress College has been a springboard to their dreams.

Come to Cypress College and ***Go Places!***

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Value and Quality
A Fun Experience

- Transfer to a California State University campus, the University of California or other top colleges

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- Outstanding transfer record to universities
- Low-cost tuition
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- Housing available through homestays or apartments
- TOEFL required score: 500 (or 173 computer version)

For more information, a brochure and application visit our web site at http://www.international.fhda.edu

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International Programs
12345 El Monte Road
Los Altos Hills, California 94022 USA
Tel: 650-949-7293
Fax: 650-949-7719
Email: fhinternational@fhda.edu

DE ANZA COLLEGE
International Programs
21250 Stevens Creek Boulevard
Cupertino, California 95014 USA
Tel: 408-864-8826
Fax: 408-864-5638
Email: dainternational@fhda.edu

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English Language Instruction

If you do not already have strong skills in English, you may want to enroll in an English language institute or program before starting at a college or university. Intensive English courses for international students are called English as a Second Language or ESL. Two kinds of English language programs are available:

- Intensive English programs sponsored by colleges and universities
- Private, independent English language institutes

If you do not have the required TOEFL score for entrance at a particular college or university, ask that institution for recommendations for intensive English programs. You may also contact the Overseas Student Educational Advising Center, which will know about many ESL programs.

For more information see our new Web site: www.cc-usa.org

Notes/Comments

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Over 150 Degree & Certificate Programs
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Fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Fullerton will help you:

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Transfer to a Four-Year College or University

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to UC and CSU Systems
Including UC Berkeley, UCLA, CSU Fullerton, USC and other private institutions

Apply Today
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International Student Center
321 East Chapman Avenue
Fullerton, CA 92832-2095, USA
(tel) 01.714.992.7580
(fax) 01.714.992.7308
(email) isc@fullcoll.edu

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Woodland Hills, California

Located in the beautiful San Fernando Valley, a thriving suburb of Los Angeles in Southern California

Offers courses transferable to a 4-year college or university

Costs less than attending a 4-year institution

Contact the International Students office at (818) 719-6417 to obtain application packets

For more information about Pierce College visit http://www.piercecollege.com

Riverside - The Right Place to Start Your University Education in California

Entrance requirements:
- 450 TOEFL (paper) 133 (computer)
- No SAT needed

Lower costs:
Tuition about $4,000 for one year (two semesters), about half the cost of a California State University and one-third the cost of the University of California.

Academic excellence:
- Computer Information Systems • Business • Graphic Design
- Multi-media • And more than 75 fields of study

Location:
An hour's drive east of Los Angeles, near Southern California's beaches, mountains, desert resorts, Universal Studios, and Disneyland.

You choose your goal:
• Transfer to four-year university for Bachelor's degree • Associate degree after two years • Certificates in vocational fields

To receive a brochure and paper application, contact The International Center:

Riverside Community College
4800 Magnolia Avenue,
Riverside CA 92506-1299
Telephone: (909) 222-8160
Fax: (909) 222-8376
Email: intl@rccd.cc.ca.us
or visit our website:
http://www.rccd.cc.ca.us
Click on "International"

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About Community Colleges

Community colleges are an important sector of the U.S. higher education system. Today, more than 10 million students, about 40 percent of all undergraduate students, attend community colleges throughout the United States.

Community colleges provide the first two years of university education, called "undergraduate courses," leading to students usually being able to transfer to a university for two years to complete the bachelor's degree. This system is sometimes called "2+2." The community colleges also offer two-year associate degrees in many fields, as well as one- and two-year certificates for shorter courses focusing on career training.

Community colleges have many different styles. Some are large and urban, with several campuses, while others are in rural settings serving small student populations. All have a common mission of teaching and learning, with the principles of access and equity, and high academic standards.

Long appreciated by U.S. students, community colleges have more recently been discovered by students from other countries. Increasing numbers of international students are choosing to begin their higher education at community colleges. Enrollments have grown 32 percent over the past five years, with more than 80,000 international students now attending community college in the United States.

Many community colleges have adopted a global focus and embrace the value of an international perspective in educating students for the 21st century. Technology has allowed communication and instruction to reach beyond the classroom, educating on a worldwide basis.

Here are some of the reasons why international students select a Community College:

- **Transfer to 4-Year Colleges and Universities**
  Many students begin their undergraduate studies at a community college and finish at a four-year college/university. Many

community colleges and four-year institutions have formed exciting partnerships to ease this transfer process. Articulation agreements, detailing courses and programs for transfer, are growing in number. Counselors are available to assist students.

- **Significant Savings in Tuition Fees**
  Solid cost savings is one of the major benefits of attending a community college. The low tuition cost of community college makes a quality education available to many who may not have had access in the past. Although rates for international students are higher than for in-state/domestic students, costs are still significantly lower than public and private four-year colleges and universities.

- **Wide Variety of Majors/Academic Programs**
  Community colleges have a wide range of majors from which to choose. Many international students pursue programs in the fields of Business Management, Computer Science, Engineering and Health Sciences-related programs, but they study everything from Art to Zoology.

  The programs and majors offered vary from college to college, so when considering schools, students should look at the college catalogs. Students may decide to change their major area of study, an option sometimes not available in the universities of some other countries.

  Students can prepare for an immediate career or pursue the first two years of general academic course work required for a bachelor's degree. Community colleges have taken a leadership role in occupational programs. They prepare students for careers in both existing and emerging technologies and often partner with businesses to facilitate training opportunities.

- **Latest Technology**
  Community colleges and technology play a critical role in each other's growth and development. Colleges incorporate technology for use in assessment and instruction. Computer labs are plentiful and easily accessible. Many labs offer state-of-the-art equipment and programs. Training for high-tech workers often happens at community colleges, with cutting-edge majors such as Telecommunications, Digital Systems, Robotics, and Laser Optics available.

- **Qualified and Accessible Faculty**
  A community college faculty member's primary responsibility is teaching, not research and publishing. Many professors also have extensive practical experience in the subjects they teach. Qualified faculty members are accessible to students through office hours and advising, and often act as sponsors for clubs and organizations.

- **Small Class Size**
  The average class size at most community colleges is significantly smaller than at public four-year universities. This makes community colleges a great place for international students who like small classes and individualized attention. The more personal atmosphere at community colleges allows international students a smoother transition and adjustment to academic life in the United States.

- **Diversity**
  College is about learning new ideas, meeting different people, gaining new perspectives and enjoying varied experiences. A community college has students of different ages, backgrounds, and ethnicities and offers a wide spectrum of clubs and activities that celebrate and support the diversity that exists on their campuses.

- **Support for International Students**
  Community colleges are committed to ensuring that their students succeed. They offer a comprehensive array of support services that include tutoring, advising, career planning, developmental courses, and counseling. Colleges also offer extensive and intensive English programs to meet the needs of students with limited English proficiency prior to entry. In addition, most community colleges provide cross-cultural programs, advising on immigration questions and other services to their international students. Most community colleges with students from other countries will have an office called International Center or International Programs, with full-time staff trained especially to be advisers to international students.

- **Proven Success**
  Many people who began their higher education in the United States at a community college have gone on to make significant

contributions and to achieve recognition in a variety of fields. Many leaders in government, entertainment, business, and science were once community college students. The education and experience they received prepared them for, and enabled them to contribute to, the changing world in which we live today.

NOTES/COMMENTS

Sacramento City College
Where memories have been made for over 96 years . . . Come make some of your own.
College – it can make a difference!
❖ Sacramento is the capitol of California — located near San Francisco, Lake Tahoe & Yosemite
❖ Great study environment
❖ Make life long friends among the 20,000 students
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❖ Tremendous savings over four-year colleges & universities
❖ Provides students with access to technology, including a 28-station open access computer lab
❖ Offers Associate Degrees & Career Certificates with outstanding teaching & educational standards
❖ Improves your job potential with English skills & employment opportunities after graduation
More information write to —
SCC International Center
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Sacramento, CA 95822-1386
USA
Or call—916.558.2486
www.scc.losrios.cc.ca.us/~intlctr

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Santa Barbara City College

Attend 2 years at Santa Barbara City College. Finish your last 2 years at UCLA, UCSB, Berkeley or other prestigious California universities.

Santa Barbara City College, overlooking the Pacific Ocean on California's South-central coast is one of America's premiere two-year colleges. This Public, fully-accredited institution offers academic associate degrees and High-tech/occupational certificates to International Students. It is a leader in preparing students for transfer to respected universities and colleges.

- *550 International Students from 67 nations are currently enrolled*
- *Located in a scenic recreation area with, a year-round Mediterranean climate*
- *SBCC clubs, sports, and student events open to all International Students*
- *More than 100 different programs of studies*
- *Cutting-edge computer training (programming and applications)*
- *No TOEFL requirements*

For complete SBCC information

The International Student Support Program
Santa Barbara City College, 721 Cliff Drive,
Santa Barbara, CA 93109-2394, U.S.A

Tel: (805) 965-0581, Ext. 2240 Fax: (805) 965-0781
E-mail: samilla@sbcc.net or diaz@sbcc.net
or visit us on the Internet at: http://www.sbcc.net

Or visit our website today! http:// www.sbcc.net

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Applying to Community Colleges

Admission requirements vary from college to college. You need to provide everything requested before your application file will be considered "complete." Read the application carefully and ask questions if you are not sure what is being asked for.

Application Materials

Most community colleges have a separate application form for international students. Usually this is located online through the college Web site. If you have difficulty locating the application materials online, send an e-mail or write to the International Admissions Office and request that materials be mailed to you.

Required Tests

Sometimes you need to take standardized tests for admission to the community college, such as the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language), and/or the SAT (Scholastic Assessment Test). The SAT is not required by most community colleges. Some colleges will accept the IELTS (International English Language Testing System) results in place of the TOEFL.

For more information regarding tests for admission to an undergraduate program of study in the United States, visit the following Web sites:

- Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT): www.collegeboard.org
- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL): www.toefl.org
- International English Language Testing System (IELTS): www.ielts.org

Proof of Financial Support

United States law requires schools to obtain reliable documentation that the international student has financial resources adequate to meet expenses while studying at the school before issuing Form I-20, *Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant F-1 Student Status.* The school will tell you what financial documents are required.

Essays

In addition to a review of scholastic eligibility for admission, some schools require that the student write an essay on a specific topic or a topic of their choosing. Essays are an important part of the application process. Present yourself in a positive way, and avoid generalities. You may want to have your essay critiqued and proofread by other people to ensure that it presents you in the best way possible.

Transcripts and Records

You will be required to submit academic transcripts and all other supporting documents and records normally necessary to determine your scholastic and linguistic eligibility for admission. You may need to have your foreign documents translated into English and professionally evaluated before receiving admission to the college.

Extracurricular Activities

The United States education system encourages students to have extracurricular activities. For example, if you participate in sports, or if you have a record of leadership experience in high school, you may increase your chances of obtaining admission to a college. Be sure to highlight these areas on your application or in your application essay.

Recommendation Letters

Confidential recommendation letters will give the college a better understanding of your strengths and weaknesses. A teacher or an employer would be a suitable person to write your recommendation letter(s).

Interviews

Some community colleges require that you interview with the admissions committee. If this is a requirement, you should practice prior to the scheduled interview. A teacher or a counselor may be able to assist you by providing you with sample questions that you can practice answering. If a college requires an interview, they will inform you about when and how this interview will be conducted.

Study 2 years at Santa Monica College. Complete your last 2 years at UCLA, USC or other fine California Universities.

The first two years at Santa Monica College prepare you to transfer to UCLA, USC, and other prestigious California and American public and private institutions. Santa Monica College is #1 in transfers to the University of California system for the past 15 years. Choose from 76 Academic majors Two year degrees available in Accounting, Business, Data Processing, Physics, Biology, Math and other subjects Homestays with American families TOEFL requirement 450+ Intensive ESL Program

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Colorado

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A comprehensive international program, specializing in English as a Second Language and transfer degrees to universities.

- Only 40 miles north of metro Denver
- 70 degrees and certificates
- International reputation
- Caring and competent faculty
- Small classes with individual attention
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Information
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(970) 330-8008, x6273
FAX (970) 339-6677
email: pia@aims.edu
www.aims.edu

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Aims
COLLEGE

Financial Considerations

An international student is required to sign a financial responsibility statement declaring that he or she is financially able to pursue studies in the United States, and to provide reliable documentation demonstrating this. This statement will also be used to obtain an F-1 student visa once admitted to the program of study.

Funds may come from any dependable source, including scholarships, fellowships, sponsoring agencies, personal funds, or funds from your family. Documentation of scholarships and fellowships may be in the form of an official award letter from the school or sponsoring agency. Documentation of personal or family funds should be on bank letterhead stationery or in the form of a legally binding affidavit. The international application of the school will state what documents are required.

Costs/Expenses

The cost of education will vary from college to college. To get a clear picture of the total expenses involved, do a detailed analysis of the selected school by going through each cost that will be applicable to you.

Expenses to budget for:

- Tuition
- Fees
- Books
- Supplies
- Maintenance (lodging and food)
- Health insurance
- Taxes
- Personal expenditures (clothing, local travel, recreation, toiletries, telephone, etc.)

By very conservative estimates, one should anticipate spending between US$10,000 and US$15,000 annually for tuition and living expenses, although these estimated costs will vary widely depending upon the tuition and the school's location.

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Student Visas

Once you have been accepted by a college for an academic program, the school will issue the appropriate *Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Status* to apply for a visa.

A visa is a grant of permission to enter a country. There are three types of student visas:

F-1 (Student Visa)

The F-1 visa is for full-time students enrolled in an academic or language program. F-1 students may stay in the United States for the full length of their academic program (duration of status "D/S") plus a 60–day grace period. F-1 students must maintain a full-time course load and complete their studies by the expiration date as listed on the I-20 form.

J-1 (Exchange Visitor Visa)

The J-1 visa is issued to students admitted to a degree program at an "accredited educational institution" for a "full course of study" or those who will be engaged in a full time non-degree "prescribed course of study." Students who are totally funded by personal or family funds are not eligible for J-1 student status; the majority of the funding for a J-1 student must be from a source other than personal or family funds. J-1 students may stay in the United States for the full length of their academic program (duration of status "D/S") plus a 30–day grace period. J-1 students must maintain a full-time course load and complete their studies by the expiration date as listed on the Form IAP-66, the *Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor (J-1) status.*

M-1 (Vocational Student Visa)

The M-1 visa is issued for students pursuing a full course of study at an established vocational or other recognized nonacademic institution. The M-1 student may be admitted to the United States for a period not to exceed one year and may be granted extensions of stay in increments not exceeding one year. Recipients of an M-1 visa may not change fields of study. Switching from an M-1 visa to a F-1 visa is not permitted.

Most U.S. community colleges will issue Form I-20, *Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant F-1 Student Status.*

If you are living outside of the United States, you will need to apply for an F-1 visa at a United States consular office having jurisdiction over your place of residence.

A very small number of consular posts permit a student to apply for the F-1 visa by mail, drop-box or travel agent. In most countries, first-time student visa applicants are required to appear for an in-person interview at the United States Embassy or Consulate.

An application for an F-1 visa at a United States Consulate must include the following items:

- Form I-20
- Evidence of financial ability to meet expenses as detailed on the I-20
- Evidence of English ability sufficient for course of study
- Evidence of intent to depart the United States after completion of studies (for example, evidence of the existence of a permanent residence). The evidence submitted can include documents such as bank accounts, a job to return to in your home country, and even clearly expressed statements about your family ties and plans for the future.
- Passport valid for at least six months after proposed date of entry into the United States
- Form DS-156*, *Nonimmigrant Visa Application.* The form and instructions are available for download from the following Web site at http://travel.state.gov/DS-0156.pdf.

  *Note: DS-156 has replaced Form OF-156
- Two photographs, $1^1/_2$ inches square (37 x 37 mm), showing full face, without head covering, against a light background
- Machine Readable Visa (MRV) surcharge fee (presently, this is a non-refundable US$45 application fee)
- Visa reciprocity fee (if applicable). Visa fees are based on "reciprocity," what another country charges a United States citizen for a similar type of visa. To locate whether or not this reciprocity fee is applicable to you, visit: http://travel.state.gov/reciprocity/index.htm.

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You should be prepared to provide other documents if requested by the consular officer, in addition to those listed above. For example, you may want to have transcripts and diplomas from previous institutions attended, and scores from standardized tests required by previous educational institutions. A personal letter of acceptance to you from the school issuing the I-20 is good to have available as well. Providing the consular officer with the required documents will be vital to obtaining your F-1 visa.

International students must be enrolled in a full course of study. Part-time study is only permissible with the approval of the international student advisor. F-1 students are permitted to remain in the United States for the "duration of status" (D/S). Duration of status means remaining in valid, full-time status during enrollment in any academic program, with a 2.0 or better GPA (Grade Point Average). Duration of status also includes any periods of authorized practical training, and a 60-day grace period for departure from the United States.

For up-to-date information regarding "Student Visas" and "Tips for United States Visas: Foreign Students," visit the U.S. Department of State's Web sites at: http://travel.state.gov/foreign_student_visas_handout.html, and http://travel.state.gov/visa;foreignstuden.html.

NOTES/COMMENTS

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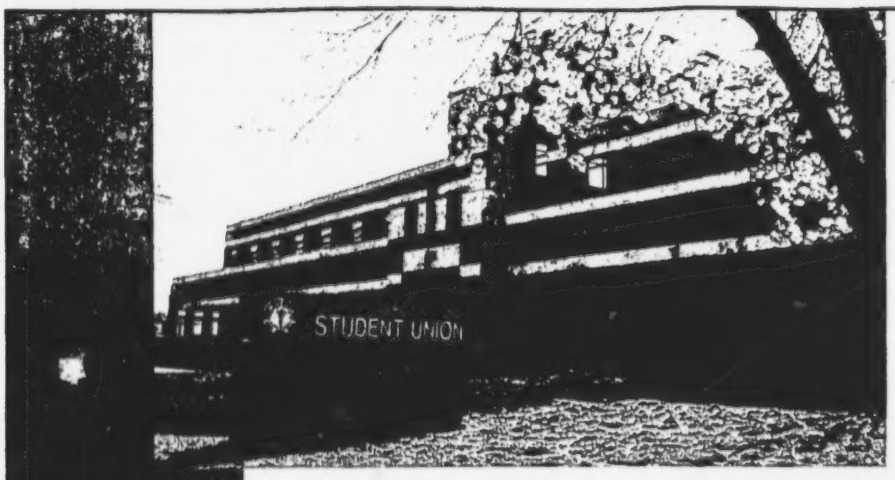

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Traveling to the United States

Once you have been admitted to an academic program and have obtained the necessary student visa, you are ready to travel to the United States.

Plan to arrive in the United States before the closing date on the "I-20," or you may be denied entrance at the port of entry.

The United States entrance requirements are as follows:

- You must be healthy. No inoculations are required to enter the United States, unless you were recently in a country with epidemics such as cholera and yellow fever. Generally, HIV-positive people are not allowed to enter the United States.
- You must be law-abiding. Criminal behavior is grounds for deportation.
- You must be able to support yourself financially during your stay.
- You must intend to leave the United States after you complete your studies.

Students should be aware that a visa does not guarantee entry into the United States. The INS has authority to deny admission if the immigration official is not satisfied that you meet the entrance requirements.

Prior to traveling we advise you to check on the following:

- When booking airline tickets, make sure you are informed of any transits that will be required. In case you are transiting in another country, you may need to obtain a transit visa. Speak with the airline or travel agency regarding this issue.

- Check the weight allowances of the airline prior to packing your bags, and be aware of significant additional costs for bags that exceed the allowable weight and size dimensions.

- Consider purchasing travel insurance.

- Carry travelers checks instead of cash.

- Contact the college's international office about options for airport to campus transportation.

- Make housing arrangements prior to arrival, whenever possible.

- Make a photocopy of the passport pages containing your photograph, passport number, expiration date, visa stamp and your I-20 form. Keep these copies in a safe place, separate from the original documents. Also, you should provide your international student advisor with a set of these copies, along with a copy of the I-20 used to enter the United States, and the I-94 Arrival/Departure Record issued to you upon your entry. If your passport is lost or stolen, this will make it much easier to replace the passport.

  Your passport should be kept valid for at least six months beyond the end of your intended stay in the United States. Notify the police and your embassy if your passport is lost or stolen.

- Upon arrival at the United States port of entry, you should be prepared to present to the immigration official the following documents:
  - Passport
  - F-1 visa stamp
  - Evidence of financial support (same financial support information used to obtain the F-1 visa)
  - Form I-20A-B and college acceptance letter

When you arrive in the United States, you will have to go through Customs and Immigration. You will be asked questions about your purpose for visiting the United States. Your answer should be "Student." Keep your answers simple and direct. If the immigration official wants to know the name of the school, tell them the name of the community college that is listed on your I-20 and your visa. If you present an I-20 issued by a school other than the one noted on the visa, the inspecting officer may question whether you might have misrepresented circumstances to the consular officer when you

applied for the visa. A student who attends a school other than the one authorized is considered to be out of status and must apply for reinstatement. If the immigration official wants more information, he/she will ask additional questions.

It is possible to transfer schools while on an F-1 visa, provided that you have attended the school that issued the I-20 that you used to enter the United States. You will need to notify your current school of the transfer and obtain an I-20 form from the new school. You will complete the student certification section of the I-20 and arrange to meet with the foreign student advisor at the new school within 15 days of beginning attendance in order to complete the INS required portion of the transfer process.

NOTES/COMMENTS

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Elizabeth Nishimiya
KCTCS Student
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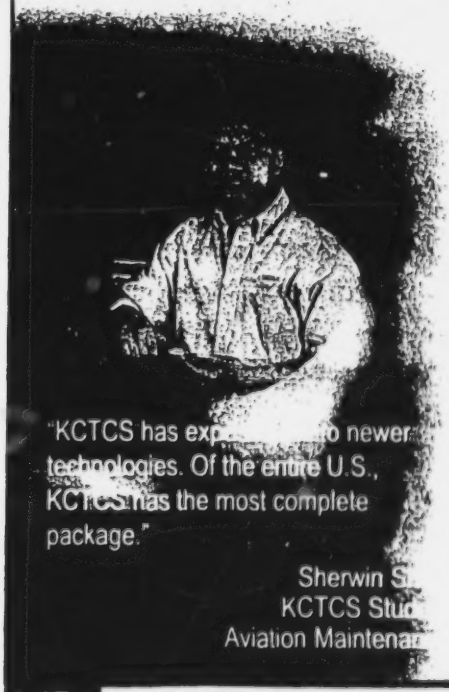

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Travel Tips

It is always a good idea to reconfirm your reservations 72 hours before departure to the United States and to arrive at the airport at least two hours ahead of your scheduled flight. If possible, prior to your departure, inform the international student advisor at your college about your travel plans and expected arrival date. Give your family members who are staying behind your contact information in the United States.

Label your luggage inside and out with your name and your community college's name and address. If your luggage is lost in transit, this will help the airline to return it to you.

Critical documents and medicine should be kept with you in your carry-on luggage. Your carry-on bag should also include one change of clothing in the event that your luggage is lost.

Because it can be very expensive to transport a lot of belongings, plan to buy some things you need in the United States. Small appliances, such as hair dryers, razors, alarm clocks, irons, etc., are very inexpensive in the United States. In addition, the ones you use at home may not be operable in the United States because of the difference in voltage and electrical cycles, so it is best to leave them at home.

Visit your doctor and dentist before you depart your home country. Tell your doctor about your trip, so that he or she can give you any required inoculations. Also arrange for an eye examination, so that you can carry an up-to-date prescription in case you need to replace your glasses or contact lenses. If you use medications that contain narcotics or which are administered by syringe, carry a signed prescription from your physician with the medicine. Another reason to inform your physician about your upcoming visit to the United States is in the event that he/she may need to prescribe alternate medications. Please note that penalties for smuggling narcotics are severe, so if you are taking any medications that contain narcotics, an alternate prescription may be advisable.

Because you will have expenses almost immediately upon your arrival in the United States, you will need to have some cash readily available. Convert a portion of your money into United States dollars before you begin your journey. You can bring the rest in the form of travelers checks. Be sure that you have enough cash and travelers checks on hand to meet the many expenses of your first few weeks in the United States.

Air travel covering more than a few time zones often results in a disorientation called "jet lag." Your body will initially have trouble adjusting to the time shift. After you arrive at your destination, try and sleep at the normal time for your new home. Most people recover from jet lag in about three days.

Like all countries, the United States has customs regulations that restrict the importation of certain goods. Some of the items which you **cannot** bring into the United States without special permission are:

- Drugs
- Fruits and vegetables
- Meat and meat products
- Firearms and ammunition
- Articles made from certain protected species of animals

You may also be asked whether you are bringing in any food. Note that it is forbidden to bring perishable foodstuffs, such as fruits, vegetables, and meat, or plants into the United States. In many United States cities there are international grocery stores where you can purchase most of the ingredients you need for cooking your favorite meals and many popular foods from home.

If you have questions regarding customs regulations, address the questions to the nearest United States Embassy, Consulate, or visit http:www.customs.gov/travel/visi.htm. When you visit the consulate to secure your visa, request a copy of the pamphlet "Customs Hints for Visitors (Non-Residents)." Be sure you are in compliance with customs regulations.

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Housing

You may have several choices of places to live at or near the campus to which you are applying. Ask the international programs office to send you information. Here are some of the possibilities:

Apartments

In college towns, usually many apartment houses rent to students. Some apartments are completely furnished (beds, couches, chairs, tables and so on); others are partially furnished, or with only kitchen appliances such as a refrigerator and stove. Many students like to be "on their own" and prefer apartment living, particularly after they have been attending the school for a while and know other students with whom to share the expenses. International offices often keep a bulletin board with announcements of "apartments available" with information for students looking for apartment mates. Check on the availability of transportation between an apartment you are considering and the campus. Usually bus service is available.

Renting Rooms in a Home

Often the international office will have a list of families who would like to rent a bedroom and bath in their home, usually with kitchen privileges, to an international student. Look into this possibility if you would like to live with a family. Find out what is covered in the cost of the room. Do you want to be responsible for fixing your own meals? Do you want to be within walking or biking distance of the campus, or do you plan to have a car? Would you like to live with a family in order to practice your English and learn more about American life?

Homestays

Some campuses offer homestays, either for a semester or year or other time period, and will guarantee to place you with a family. Sometimes these families will include the cost of meals, include the student in family activities and even provide transportation to the school.

Dormitories

Dormitories are buildings on campus with rooms for students attending that college. Most community colleges do not provide dormitories.

Check with the international office about the availability of dormitories at the school you wish to attend.

International students who arrive early for the academic program have time to look around the community and choose where they wish to live. If possible, however, have a plan in mind for housing for the first few months. Ask your international office for assistance in making arrangements for your housing needs.

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Notes/Comments

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Banking

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US$0.01 (1 cent) – a copper-colored coin called a penny

US$0.05 (5 cents) – a silver-colored coin called a nickel

US$0.10 (10 cents) – a silver-colored coin called a dime

US$0.25 (25 cents) – a silver-colored coin called a quarter

A few silver-colored 50¢ coins (half-dollars) and US$1.00 coins are also in circulation.

Paper money is all the same size and green in color. These bills come in US$1, US$5, US$10, US$20, US$50, and US$100 denominations. You may still find some old US$2 bills in circulation too. Larger denominations are rarely seen.

Checking Accounts

You will need a checking account in order to pay bills, such as rent and utilities. You should pay for most of your purchases using a check or credit card. It is not safe to send cash through the mail or carry large amounts of cash on your person.

To open a checking account, visit a bank and ask to open an account. You will need to deposit money into the account when you open it. You can deposit cash or travelers checks, or arrange for a wire transfer from your home bank (there will be a charge for the service). Additional deposits and withdrawals may be made at any time.

The bank will ask you for your Social Security number. As an F-1 student you should be eligible to apply for a Social Security number. However, if you cannot obtain one, you may apply for an Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN). Ask your International Office about getting a Social Security card. Additional information regarding Social Security numbers may be obtained by visiting http://www.ssa.gov.

You can withdraw money from your account using a check or an automatic teller machine (ATM) card. The check is a negotiable order of withdrawal that tells the bank to pay the money to the payee by withdrawing money from your account. When you open the checking account, the bank will provide you with an initial set of checks.

If you want your bank to honor checks even when your account is overdrawn, you must ask for overdraft protection.

If you have an ATM card from a foreign bank, ask the bank whether your personal identification number (PIN) will work in the United States. Some banks will give you a different PIN for transactions abroad.

Savings Accounts

Another type of bank account is a savings account. Savings accounts earn interest, but do not include check-writing privileges. A savings account will pay a higher rate of interest than a checking with interest account. You can use an ATM card to withdraw money from a savings account.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) insures all bank accounts against loss up to US$100,000. The FDIC is a federal agency that protects depositors against losses caused by bank failure.

Credit Cards

Many international students find it difficult to get a credit card in the United States because they do not have an established credit history. So if you already have a major credit card such as a MasterCard (Eurocard, Access, Chargex), Visa (Barclaycard, Carte Bleue), or American Express, it is a good idea to bring it with you. American banks can check your credit limit on the foreign card, and this may help you to obtain a credit card in the United States.

Travelers Checks

Travelers checks are one of the safest ways to transport money. If the travelers checks are lost or stolen, you can easily get them replaced. Do not countersign the checks until you are ready to use them.

Exchanging Money

Some banks will exchange foreign currency for a fee. No bank, however, will exchange foreign coinage. You can also exchange currency at the airport, a major hotel, or through Thomas Cook Foreign Exchange.

Exchange rates are usually printed on the financial pages of the local newspaper. You can also get daily exchange rates from several Web sites, including http://www.oanda.com.

NOTES/COMMENTS

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e-mail: rshibib@email.racc.cc.pa.us
Visit our website at www.racc.cc.pa.us

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Shopping

There is no national sales tax in the United States. However, each state has its own sales tax. The sales tax is charged as a percentage surcharge on purchases, and is printed on the receipt. Rates differ from state to state.

Supermarkets are large grocery stores, often part of a chain of stores. These usually are less expensive than a small local grocery, and the selection is larger.

We advise you to compare prices. At different stores, the same items are frequently sold at different prices. Prices in the stores are fixed, so it will not help to try to bargain with the sales clerk. This may be different when dealing directly with a private individual or when buying a large, expensive item such as a car.

All stores will accept United States currency. No stores will accept foreign currency. Many stores will accept United States-denominated travelers checks. Travelers checks in foreign currency will be refused.

Most people do not carry around large sums of money. Instead they pay for purchases with a credit card or personal check. Most stores will accept the major credit cards. Even grocery stores accept credit cards and ATM cards.

Credit cards are such an important part of American life that you will have trouble making certain purchases with anything other than a credit card. If you want to place an order by phone, cash a check, rent a car, or buy airline tickets, you need to have a credit card. (However, it is easy to find yourself over-extended on your credit card purchases, so it is wise to use your credit card with care).

Keep the receipt, or sales slip, for anything that you buy. In some stores all packages are checked at the door as a protection against stealing. Your receipt is your proof that you have bought the items that you are carrying. If you find that what you have bought is the wrong size or color, you can usually return it, exchange it, or ask for a refund or credit as long as the item is not worn, used or damaged. To do this you must show the receipt or sales slip.

NOTES/COMMENTS

We chose to start at ACC!

Austin Community College is a great choice for more than 800 international students from 93 different countries. You can choose from 67 courses of study. Complete your first two years, then transfer to one of the many prestigious universities in the US.

ACC is a great choice if you are looking for:

- Small classes – average size 20 students
- Easy admission - no GPA, no SAT, only TOEFL score min. of 500
- Cultural events, student clubs, and many activities
- Same accreditation standards for freshman and sophomore courses as 4-year colleges
- Low tuition costs

We would like for you to join us and discover how ACC can be a great start for your future.

For more information and online application –*www.austin.cc.tx.us*

For questions or free brochure – *agautier@austin.cc.tx.us*
Austin Community College
Center for International Programs
5930 Middle Fiskville Rd
Austin, TX 78752 USA

AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Start Here. Get There.

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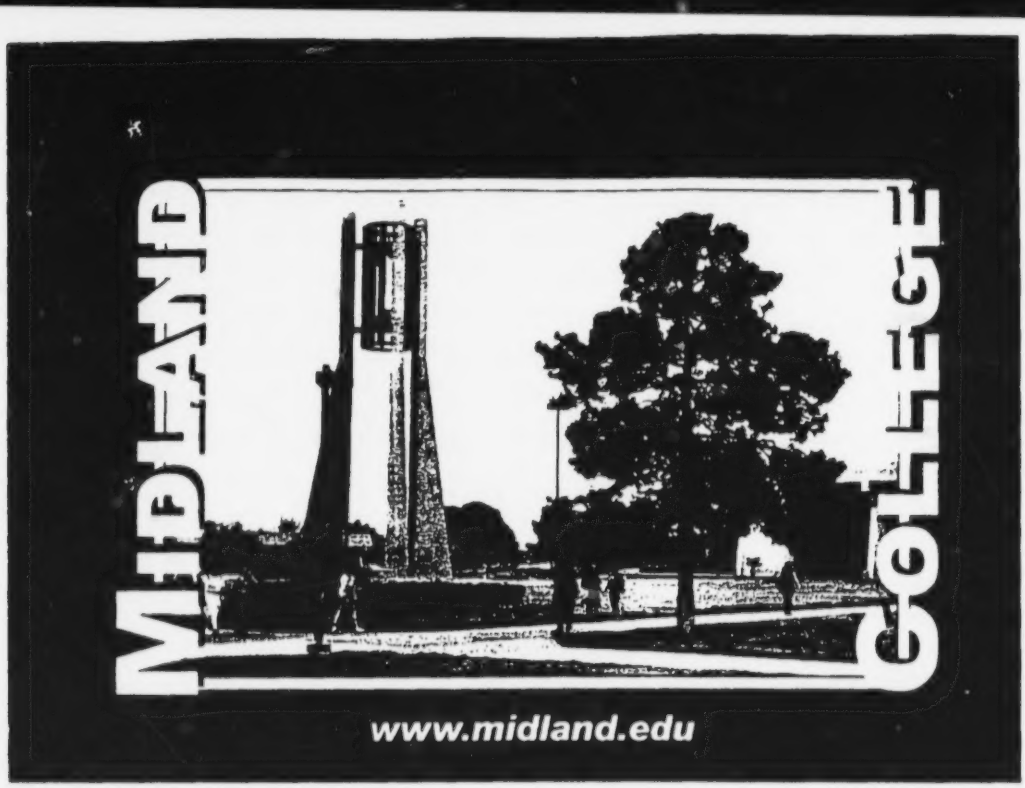

Midland College has been recognized as one of the **fastest growing community colleges** in the state of Texas by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Besides offering **50+ areas of academic** and **technical studies**, including general academic areas, **Midland College** has new or expanded programs specializing in:

Information Technologies, Health Sciences, Pre-Engineering, Pre-Ministry, Aviation Maintenance, Pilot Training, and Veterinary Technology

We also have **an active student life, on-campus dorms,** and **championship-level sports programs.** Add the **great quality of life** in **Midland, Texas, and** you'll see why so many choose to call us home.

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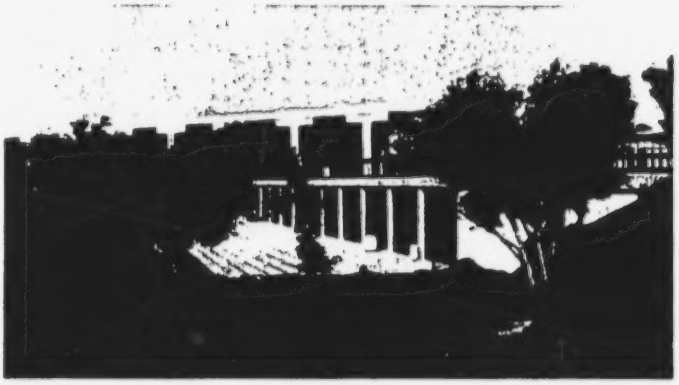
For an information packet regarding ***Midland College*** *and what it has to offer* ***international students****, contact:*

Shep Grinnan, *Director of Counseling*
(915) 685-4505
sgrinnan@midland.edu
Midland College • 3600 N. Garfield • Midland, Tx 79705

Midland College is an equal opportunity educator/employer.

RICHLAND COLLEGE

DCCCD



Changing Lives With Education For More Than 30 Years

Career Programs

- ✔ International Business & Trade
- ✔ Computer Information Systems
- ✔ Travel, Exposition & Meeting Mgt.
- ✔ University Transfer Partnerships

For more information call 972/238-3763
or e-mail **ISADM@dcccd.edu**

American English & Culture Institute

- ✔ Intensive English (Fast Track)
- ✔ American Culture
- ✔ University Preparation

For more information call 214/915-4800
or e-mail **AECI@dcccd.edu**

Visit us at www.richlandcollege.edu

12800 Abrams Road • Dallas, TX • 75243-2199

An Equal Opportunity Institution.

Consider Utah Valley State College

– Safe, diverse environment – a beautiful campus 80 kilometers south of Salt Lake City, at the base of the Wasatch Mountain.

– Open Enrollment – International Students can be accepted into regular academic courses with a passing grade on the Michigan or TOEFL and a high school transcript or its equivalent.

– English as a Second Language courses – for students with little background in the English language, UVSC offers a intensive English language training program that allows graduates of the language program to move directly into regular UVSC academic courses.

– Wide Variety of Academic Programs – With over 70 two-year associates degrees and 25 four- year bachelors degrees, UVSC offers international students a range of academic choices – from technical and trade degrees to degrees in business, the hard sciences and the social sciences.

– Strong International Student Programs – UVSC's International Student Council sponsors a variety of programs throughout the year – including monthly brunches, socials, and a yearly international night – and gives international students a voice in college administration.

– Advisors for International Students – UVSC's International Office provides a comprehensive support system for incoming international students. Its advisors can help students work through academic, immigration, and visa issues.

Join a dynamic, growing student body Utah Valley State College. For more information see www.uvsc.edu/international/students or contact Utah Valley State College, Butler Institute for International Understanding, Mail Stop 124, 800 West University Parkway, Orem, Utah 84058 USA

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Utah Valley State College

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Driving

It is strongly recommended you obtain a local driver's license instead of relying on an international driver's license. Traffic laws and driving habits in the United States differ so much that it is best to take a driving class and obtain a local license. Some states will require you to get a local license. Even if the state does not require this, the car insurance company probably will. If you decide to get a local driver's license, leave your national and international driver's licenses at home. Otherwise, you will have to turn them in when you receive a local driver's license.

Drivers licenses can be obtained at the local Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

If you do not already know how to drive a car, you will need to get a Learner's Permit. This allows you to learn how to drive while a licensed driver is in the car with you. After you've learned how to drive, you will be able to take the driving test. We recommend learning to drive through a driving school, since you will be more likely to pass the driving exam after taking driving lessons.

International students often find that many insurance companies will not issue them a policy because they don't have a driving history in the state or an existing insurance policy from another state. If you do succeed in getting a policy, it will probably be through the state's assigned-risk program, which automatically classifies you as a high-risk driver. If you are under age 25, you will also be classified as a high-risk driver, especially if you are male. As such, your premiums will probably be fairly high. Do get insurance and do not drive until you have it.

Car Registration

When you buy a car you will need to transfer the car's registration. You can go to a public notary (cost US$30 to US$40) or the AAA (American Automobile Association). You will need proof of liability insurance to transfer the title. You will receive a license plate with a temporary sticker after you complete the paperwork. You should

attach it to the proper location in the rear of your car. A permanent registration sticker will arrive in a few weeks by mail.

Accidents, Offenses

If a police officer stops you for speeding, pay the fine by mail. Do not try to give the money to the police officer, since that may be considered bribery, and bribery is illegal.

If you are driving a car and are involved in an accident, stop and wait until the police arrive. Be sure to get the name and address of the other driver, his/her license number, and the name of his/her insurance company. You should not argue with others at the scene, nor should you admit responsibility.

For more information see our new Web site: www.cc-usa.org

Notes/Comments

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TIDEWATER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Tidewater Community College is recognized as one of the top eight colleges in the United States for its work in international education.

By enrolling at Tidewater Community College you:

~ Learn in a safe and quite environment

~ Join students representing 30 different countries and 80 various languages

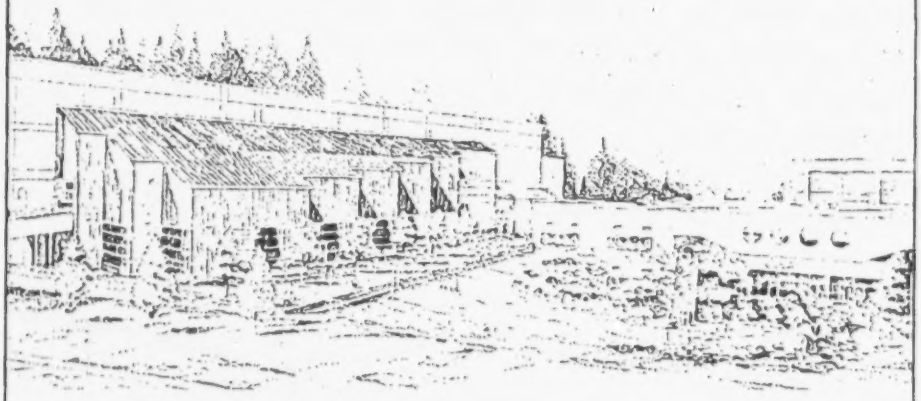
~ Attend classes where faculty listen and nurture students for success

~ Prepare for further study at nearby colleges such as University of Virginia, Old Dominion University, William and Mary, Virginia Tech and George Mason University

Tidewater Community College
121 College Place Norfolk, Virginia 23510
www.tcc.vccs.edu/ipo

Education that works!

- cutting-edge professional, career and technical training
- affordable tuition
- transfer opportunities
- small classes with individual attention
- attractive, safe and friendly environment
- English language training
- diverse student population



For more information on what Lake Washington Technical College has to offer, call **(425) 739-8100**, email **international.students@lwtc.ctc.edu** or visit us on the web at **www.lwtc.ctc.edu**

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LAKE WASHINGTON TECHNICAL COLLEGE

11605 132ND AVENUE NE • KIRKLAND, WASHINGTON 98034-8506, USA

Working in the United States

Getting a job is not an effective means of financing an education in the United States. There are numerous restrictions on employment of foreign nationals, and some types of visas prohibit it entirely. Most international students are limited to on-campus employment.

Generally, a student on an F-1 or J-1 visa may not engage in off-campus employment without authorization from the INS. This authorization is seldom granted during the student's first year in the United States. On-campus employment is possible, however, once school has commenced, as long as the student is in good legal and academic standing.

Most international students are limited to on-campus employment of 20 hours per week while school is in session. However, a student may work full-time on campus during vacation or break periods, as long as the student is to be registered for the following semester.

Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) permission is not required to accept on-campus employment. However, you must obtain a Social Security number and complete a Form I-9 (Employment Eligibility) prior to beginning employment. You may also need to get authorization from the foreign student advisor, depending upon the policy at your institution.

International students in F-1 status are also eligible for up to 12 months of practical training, which is divided into two categories: (1) curricular practical training (CPT), before completion of studies, and (2) optional practical training (OPT), both before and after completion of studies. Curricular and optional practical training are defined as "paid employment related to the student's field and level of study," used to round out the educational program in the United States, which may take place on- or off-campus. Eligible students need not change their visa status in order to accept this type of employment. However, authorization from the international student advisor and/or the INS is required.

Study In The Pacific Northwest!

Pierce College

Pierce College is a two-year community college known for high quality education and a friendly atmosphere. It is located in Washington State, 40 miles from Sea-Tac International Airport and close to the cities of Tacoma and Seattle.

Pierce combines location, quality and value for an outstanding educational experience leading to career and academic success.

- Admission is September, January, April and June.
- Wide range of university transfer and vocational courses.
- College Prep Intensive English Program.
- Specialized advising and activities staff for international students.
- Host family program and airport pick-up.
- Housing assistance available.

Contact:

International Education Office
Pierce College
9401 Farwest Dr SW
Lakewood, Washington, 98498-1999
USA

Phone: (253) 964-7327
Fax: (253) 964-6256

E-mail: intledu@pierce.ctc.edu

Visit us on the World Wide Web at:
http://www.pierce.ctc.edu

From where you are... to where you want to be.

South Seattle Community College

Whether you are new to English, ready for college, or wanting to start a career, we make it easy!

- ESL/College Bridge Program is your path to college
- No TOEFL needed
- Get the first two years of your bachelor's for up to half the cost!
- Take Computer Technology, Aviation, Culinary Arts or another career-ready program
- Small class size and individual attention
- Friendly faculty and staff
- Spacious and beautiful campus
- Summer American Language & Culture Program

6000 - 16th Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98106-1499
www.southseattle.org/international

- > Outstanding English (ESL) Program.
- > Fully accredited university transfer programs; over 50 academic majors offered including business, computer science, art, psychology and more.
- > 2+2=4: 2 years at Tacoma Community College
  + 2 years at a U.S. university
  4-year bachelor's degree
- > Recent graduates have transferred to University of Washington, University of Texas at Austin, University of Southern California, and many more fine universities.
- > Over 30 one- and two-year certificate programs including business and IT.
- > Low tuition, small classes, modern, friendly campus.
- > Full access to all college facilities, including free internet.
- > Campus activities including excursions, sports and over 20 campus clubs.
- > Airport pickup, homestay/apartment placement.
- > Located 56 km from Seattle, in a safe, scenic area.

TACOMA
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

Contact: International Student Advisor | Tacoma Community College
6501 South 19th Street | Tacoma, Washington 98466 U.S.A.
Phone: (253) 566-5190 | **Fax:** (253) 566-6027
Email: international@tcc.ctc.edu | www.tacomacommunitycollege.com

Cultural Dimensions

As you spend more time in the United States, you will uncover many more similarities and differences. Many international programs offices have orientation classes where they discuss differences and similarities. Below are just a few of the areas that may be different in U.S. culture as compared to that of your home country.

- Americans value independence and individuality.
- It is the custom to appear at the exact time set for an appointment or a social engagement in the United States.
- In writing dates, you should get in the habit of writing the month first, the day second, and the year last for example, May 1, 2002, or 5/1/02.
- Americans usually open gifts in the presence of the giver.
- Eye contact is important. It is not a sign of disrespect, but instead an indication of openness, honesty, and enthusiasm.
- Bribery (i.e., offering someone, such as a police officer, money so that he or she will not issue you a speeding ticket) is not considered appropriate and often is illegal. Attempting to bribe a policeman will certainly get you arrested.
- Restaurants do not usually include a service charge in the bill, so you should tip the waiter about 10-15 percent of the total bill.

"Culture Shock" is the phrase used to describe the psychological effects of being immersed in a new culture. Initially, being in a different environment will excite you. But, as time goes by, you may become depressed, have trouble sleeping (or want to sleep more), have trouble concentrating, eat poorly, think that no one understands how you feel, and want very badly to go home. Getting involved with a variety of people and activities will help you deal with culture shock. If the feelings of despair and dislocation do not

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grow weaker within a few weeks, visit your international programs office to talk with one of the staff members.

Plan to enjoy the experience of being in a new lifestyle and culture. Some ways to make this opportunity more enjoyable are:

(1) Bring with you photos of your home, your family, your friends and your school. Bring maps and even books about your country. Perhaps you have a type of dress or "costume" which would be ordinary for your in your country, but unusual in the United States. You will be asked many questions about the life and customs of your home, so be prepared.

(2) Keep a diary or notebook in which to write your experiences. What things surprise you most about the United States or American life? What is hard for you, and what do you enjoy? What is different from what you have seen on television? This diary will be of help when you want to tell other people about the experience of attending school in the United States.

(3) Bring with you, or purchase, a camera with which you can record the places you go, people you meet, whatever you wish to share with your family at home. Some international students enroll in a beginning photography class at the college, which is a good way to meet American students and make friends.

(4) Share your ideas and suggestions with the advisors in the international office, so they can assist you and other students in making the most of the experience of studying in the United States.

A Final Note

We hope that you have found this *Guide to Studying in the USA* helpful while planning your academic life in the United States.

We welcome your comments, questions, and suggestions.

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www.cc-usa.org

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MAINE
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MASSACHUSETTS
RHODE ISLAND
CONNECTICUT
NEW JERSEY
DELAWARE
MARYLAND
Washington DC

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FOR MORE INFORMATION...

If you're interested in receiving more information on a particular college, please fill out this form, insert in an envelope and mail it to:

International Services
American Association of Community Colleges
One Dupont Circle Suite 410
Washington, DC 20036

Please Print

Name:
Last First Middle

Street Address:

City:

State/Province:

Postal Code:

Country:

E-mail:

I am interested in the following college(s):

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

I would like to start in:

- ❑ Fall _____ year
- ❑ Winter _____ year
- ❑ Spring _____ year
- ❑ Summer _____ year

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NOTES/COMMENTS

2 years at a Community College	+	2 years at a University
Aims College		Colorado State University
Austin Community College		University of Texas at Austin
Bergen Community College		The Colleges of New Jersey
Bunker Hill Community College		Boston University
College of Lake County		Chicago State University
Community College of Philadelphia		University of Pennsylvania
Cypress College		California State University, Long Beach
Danville Area Community College		University of Illinois
Darton College		University of Georgia
Delgado Community College		University of New Orleans
Foothill and De Anza Colleges		Stanford University
Fullerton College		California State University, Fullerton
Howard Community College		Johns Hopkins University
Kentucky Community and Technical College		University of Kentucky
Kirkwood Community College		University of Iowa
Lake Washington Technical College		City University
Maricopa Community College		Arizona State University
Mesa Community College		University of Arizona
Midland College		West Texas A&M University
Minneapolis Community & Technical College		Metropolitan State University
North Dakota State College of Science		University of North Dakota
Onondaga Community College		Syracuse University
Pierce College (CA)		California State University, Long Beach
Pierce College (WA)		University of Washington
Reading Area Community College		Temple University
Richland College		University of Texas at Dallas
Riverside Community College		University of California, Riverside
Sacramento City College		California State University, Sacramento
Santa Barbara City College		University of California, Santa Barbara
Santa Monica College		University of California, Los Angeles
South Seattle Community College		University of Washington
St. Petersburg College		University of Florida
Tacoma Community College		University of Washington, Tacoma
Tidewater Community College		University of Virginia
University of Hawai'i Community Colleges		University of Hawai'i
Utah Valley State College		University of Utah
Vincennes University		Indiana State University
Western Iowa Tech Community College		Iowa State University

= a Bachelor's Degree

Complete 2 years at a Community College and 2 years at a University and receive a Bachelor's Degree.

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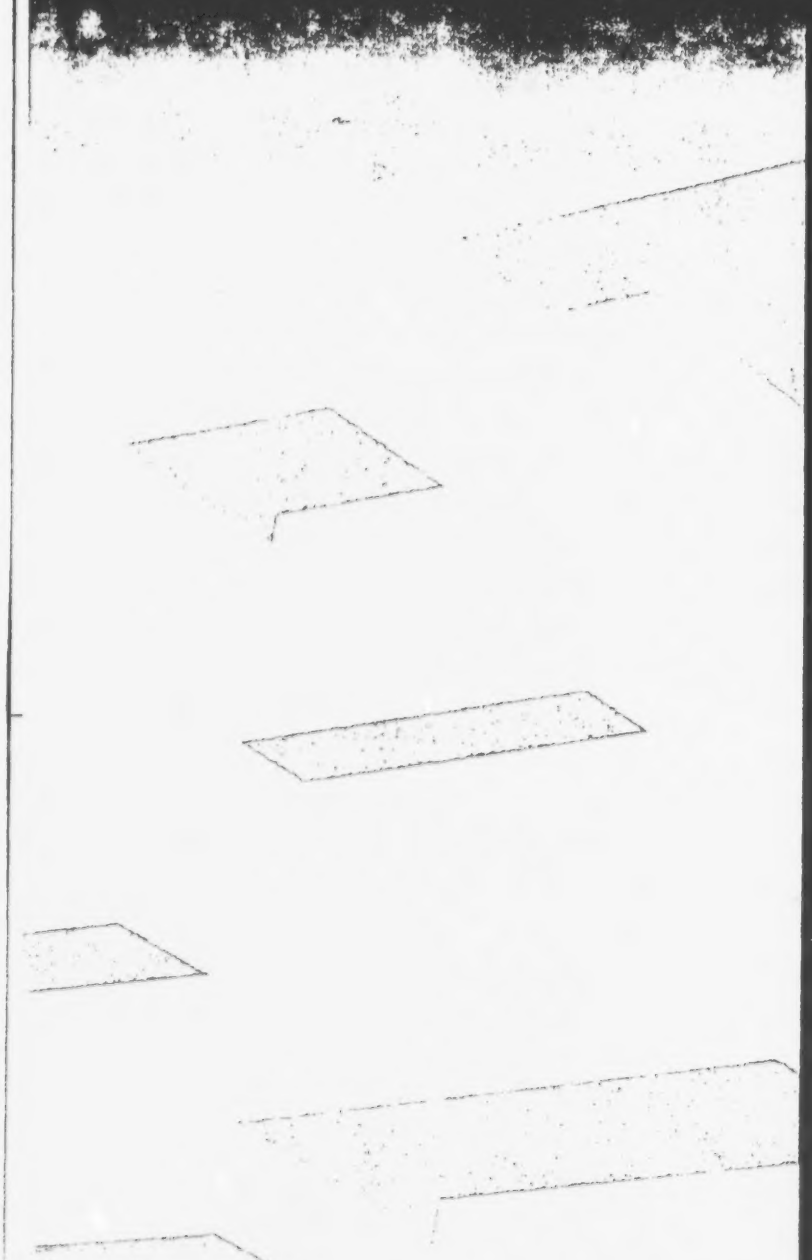
American Association of Community Colleges



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or visit us at
http://www.cc-usa.org

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES